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Resist Board Meeting, Nov. 9, 1986

Resist

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A call to

RESIST

illegitimate authority

One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

Board Minutes, November 9, 1986
NYC, NY 617/623-5110

Frank Brodhead
Connie Chan
Pam Chamberlain
Bell Chevigny
Noam Chomsky
Kate Cloud
Tess Ewing
Norm Fruchter
Mitchell Goodman
Kenneth Hale
Frank Joyce
Louis Kampf
Hans Koning
Paul Lauter
Nancy Moniz
Richard Ohmann
Wayne O'Neil
Carlos Otero
Grace Paley
Henry Rosemont
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
Rene Valle
George Vickers
Nancy Wechsler

Present: Nancy Moniz, Nancy Wechsler, Ken Tangvik, Tess Ewing, Pam Chamberlain, Frank Brodhead, George Vickers, Louis Kampf, Amy Swerdlow, Bell Chevigny

Hiring Committee Report: We received 20 applications for the newsletter position and are interviewing 5. All five had the necessary skills and diverse political experience. George suggested that there be another member of the board on the hiring committee. Brief discussion. Louis volunteered when no one else would. Hiring committee will meet Nov. 12, 17, 19th.

Finances: We have \$4300 in baybank account, 14,500 in working assets, 2600 in loan fund. RA owes money to loan fund and will be repaying shortly. We have 2300 in outstanding bills. Baybank account owes working assets account the following: 5161.44 for cost of prospecting mailings, 730 for computer (this is money we were given by our donors to spend on a computer), (and possibly another 2118 for the computer that we haven't been given yet). The Baybanks account also owes the loan fund 350.00. In general it looks like the amount of money we are receiving each month is similar to last year, the slow months this year were slow last year. We are expecting a lot of money to come in during November and December. But we also are dealing with the fact that our prospecting mailings over the last year have lost us about 10,000 so far though we still expect to recoup some of that. We agreed to have a discussion of finances, probably at the next board meeting. In the meantime Wechsler has taken the following steps: We have stopped doing prospecting mailings for the time being except for a small mailing in November to the Dollars & Sense list and the Radical America list to use up the brochures and envelopes we have already paid for. Our October pledge drive has already given us 50 new pledges and many old pledges have agreed to increase their monthly donations. In November we sent out an ABC mailing (to all those on our list who hadn't given since July), and a mailing to our National List (our inactive donors). Mailings have recently been done to clean out our list--specifically to all pledges who hadn't given in over 12 months and to others on our list who hadn't given in over a year. We have put a new request in our most recent newsletter for money to help with purchasing the necessary computer software. And Wechsler is writing a letter urging people to donate stock to Resist. In January we will have a much better view of where we stand financially, since we will see the results of these recent fundraising efforts.

Next Board Meeting: Staff recommended that we wait till January for the next board meeting because of both the finances of the organization and the time it takes to prepare for the meeting. Next board meeting will be Jan 11th at Pam Chamberlain's in Cambridge.

Newsletter Discussion: We had a short brainstorming session about ideas for upcoming articles. Anyone reading this who has additional ideas should be in touch with the staff. Articles in the works: Haiti, cultural issues, terrorism, homelessness, criminal justice system, Politics of AIDS, Northern Ireland and Irish Americans. Ideas for articles: How the C.A. movement should respond to low intensity warfare, Japan, Religion on the Left, sexuality debates, left's involvement in electoral politics (democratic party vs. independent political action and local vs. national), examples of successful organizing projects. Frank B. suggested we try to address issues which are controversial to the groups we give money to, for example the merger of Sane and the Freeze, the people's summit, etc.

CASA/MOBE discussion: CASA has come to us several times this year under slightly different names. We had a long discussion about whether or not we wanted to raise the 600 limit for a group like CASA, which was, after all, formed by the merger of three groups. So that before the merger each group would have qualified for a 600 grant. We couldn't reach an agreement on how to change the policy. Disc: George argued not to put a limit on local affiliates of nationals, ie local chapters of CISPES, but there should be a limit on local groups or committees of the same organization (like different task forces of MOBE). Tess agreed but said CASA is a big group, does lots of work, was made from three groups joining together. We don't want to penalize groups when they merge. But CASA's grant application in this packet is dishonest. They say they are a coalition putting on a labor conference, when really it is the CASA labor committee doing the conference. Tess argued we should allow groups like CASA more than 600 a year. Frank asked if we wanted to decide on a case by case basis or make some guidelines. Bell asked if we wanted to formalize dividing the pie between Central America groups, feminist groups, etc.? Frank suggested an annual grant to the organization for operating expenses, for a specific project or for coalitions. We shouldn't give specific committees and the whole organization a grant. Perhaps a 1000/yr for groups like CASA and MOBE? We came close, but weren't ready to make a decision. Wechsler said she wouldn't want Central America groups to be the only exceptions (having in mind Gay Community News, of course, as another important group to give more than 600 a year to).

✓ Quarterly Taxes: or how we so hate to give the government money. Nancy Moniz made a proposal that we hire Meredith Smith as a consultant to do the quarterly taxes for Resist. We would pay her 10/hr for the few hours it would take her. Anticipated yearly expense 100-120/yr. We all agreed.

Request for mailing list: Joni Seager from MIT Women's Studies Program would like the Resist New England list to do a mailing about the Asian Women's Conference at MIT in the spring. They wouldn't be asking for money, only letting people know about the conference. Wechsler urged a yes vote on this. All agreed.

Computer: Our computer is up and running. We are in the process of transferring over our data from our old radio shack 8 inch disks to the IBM 5 1/4 inch ones. We bought a program called "The Donor Bank" to keep track of our donor records. The program was developed for the funding exchange and is used by all of the other foundations we know of. If we are lucky we will have it ready to use for our December newsletter. January for sure.

GRANTS:

We gave a total of \$3500 to the following 11 groups:

1) Labor Education & Research Project (Detroit, MI) \$200 for cost of printing for labor notes conference in November. General agreement that these people were doing the best labor work around. Questions about the size of their budget prompted us to decide to give them some money to show our support.

2) Unemployment Law Project (Seattle, WA) \$400 for printing and distribution of pamphlet. Good references. They make connections with other issues and groups. During this discussion Amy S. raised some disagreements over the questions in the new grant application. We agreed to discuss it again in a few months. Amy wants to be at the meeting when we talk about it.

5) Richmond Committee for World Peacemaking (Richmond, IN) \$350 towards the cost of purchase of a Canon copier.

8) Social Action Center (Albany, NY) \$400 toward purchase of an AB Dick copier.

11) St. Louis Pledge of Resistance (MO) \$500 for general funding of its national clear house on the national guard.

14) Comit  El Salvador (Medford, MA) \$200 for production of brochure on group. We agreed to encourage them to talk about El Salvador in a regional context.

16) New England Central America Network (Cambridge, MA) \$350 for expenses of their Rapid Response Network. Some people liked this particular project, others weren't enthused, but felt good about NECAN. We agreed to urge them to include Honduras in the project.

17) Washington Office on Haiti (D.C.) \$250 towards cost of production of their newsletter. They had good references. Questions raised about size of their budget. Ken thinks well of them. They are writing an article for our Newsletter.

20) Madison Institute for Social Legislation (WI) \$300 towards costs of city-wide ordinance to extend to alternative families the same rights and benefits as those of married people. We agreed it was important for the gay/lesbian community to take the offensive in these times. Links made to other communities.

11/9/86

21) North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (Durham, NC) \$250 towards cost of publishing year-end report on Klan/Nazi activity and bigoted violence. (We had already given them \$100 emergency grant). People had questions about the size of their budget.

22) Gray Panthers of Chicago (IL) \$300 to cover costs of printing and mailing flyers of national health care project.

NOs:

3) Boston Labor Conference (Boston, MA) They had requested \$200 to cover costs of rent and of sound equipment. Tess said that this was a good conference but that the group doing it was CASA, not a coalition as the grant application said. Also it seemed that mostly leftists interested in the labor movement would come to the conference, not other rank and file people. No sponsoring organization was putting up money.

4) Women's Action on Tax Resistance (SF, CA) These people had good references. We decided against the grant because people didn't like the text of the brochure. Louis argued it preached to the converted. Pam also had criticisms and would work with Moniz on a letter to the group.

6) Center for Nonviolent Studies (Omaha, NE) Didn't seem like an activist organization with active members. Their sub appeal seemed unrealistic. We see some positive aspects of their work, but not a Resist priority.

7) Birmingham WAND (AL) No for now, but possibly yes to another project like their plans for a speakers bureau. Some objections were raised to giving money to a WAND group because of their politics and Helen Caldicott's politics. Some people felt it was important to support work in Alabama.

9) Views in Print (Portland, OR) We said no because we don't have any evidence he will be able to do what we says he wants to do-- either here or in the USSR.

10) Western WA Sub Regional and Seattle CISPES- We said no but will urge them to re-submit in future when the local group is formed. They hadn't responded to Nancy's letter. They hadn't mentioned that there had been a CISPES before, and what the history was. People were a bit suspicious.

12) Marin Interfaith Task Force on CA. In general people thought this was an unrealistic project. It was pointed out we usually fund groups working here to prevent US intervention. We had a long discussion about this group and what was going on with the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador. For more information, talk to the staff.

13) Center for Central American Studies (SF, CA) This group

wanted money for SALPRESS hookup to be used nationally. We had already given money to group in San Diego to do this, and George said there was a group in Texas that does some of this.

15)Bats not bombs (LA, CA) We thought they could get money from more mainstream groups. Most people thought the project was okay but not a resist priority.

18)Friends of Elizam Escobar (Chicago, IL) long discussion about whether or not this was political. George thought this had more to do with the debate about art as a liberating experience theory than about Puerto Rico. Amy thought it had the ability to organize the middle class and intellectuals. People didn't like what the artist had to say about art as a liberating experience.

19)Freedom for South Africa Refugee Committee (SF, CA) Themba (of the ANC) said the PAC is defunct, only survived outside of SA, possibly this group is connected to Republic of New Africa and the Black United Front. Vanguard checked around a bit, said they were not active in SA movement in SF. They are small, new. George said we shouldn't get involved in internal fights. Louis said they refugee settlement wasn't a priority for Resist--was out of our league.

23)Freedom House (Richmond, VA) This seemed like a service group.

25)Western Washington Sub-regional CISPES (same as no. 10, but this is for a loan). No for same reasons as 10.

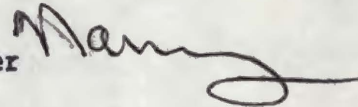
POSTPONE:

24) Alliance for Cultural Democracy (Camb, MA) We postponed to get update about conference from people Wechsler knows who went.

That's it. At the next meeting we agreed to evaluate the formula we use for deciding how much to allocate to groups for the meeting (the \$200 times number of groups).

See you on January 11th at Pam's --65 Antrim St., Cambridge

Nancy Wechsler



A call to **RESIST** illegitimate authority

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Wayne O'Neil
Carlos Otero
Grace Paley
Henry Rosemont
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
Rene Valle
George Vickers
Nancy Wechsler

Board Meeting - November 9th, 1986 - 11AM

George Vickers' apartment

205 W. 19th St.

New York, NY 10011 Tel.: (212)741-0545

AGENDA

- * Hiring Committee Report - The deadline for resumes is November 3rd with interviews scheduled for after the board meeting. We'll just fill you in on what's happened so far.
- * Finance Report
- * Next board meeting date and place
- * Newsletter discussion - Ken Tangvik will be asking for some feedback from board members as far as articles-suggestions for himself and for the next NL editor.
- * CASA, Mobe, etc. discussion - As you'll notice we have another proposal this month from a CASA committee working in coalition with other groups. At a staff/board lunch with Tess Ewing, we thought that it would be helpful to have a discussion at a board meeting on if it's necessary to concretize a special financial relationship with organizations such as CASA, NY and Boston Mobe and others. They're large and key groups in their areas, have many projects and at this point are only eligible for our maximum \$600. Especially in the case of CASA, they continue to send in proposals, emergency grant requests, under the auspices of a coalition they've been influential in forming. We thought it's time to discuss this.
- * Office - any small and large things that have come up between now and the board meeting. You also might be interested in a report on The Resist Computer.

GRANT REQUESTS

Labor Related Work

- 1) Labor Education & Research Project (Detroit, MI) - \$600 requested toward cost of printing for conference in November.
- 2) Unemployment Law Project (Seattle WA) - Request of \$600 for printing and distribution of pamphlet
- 3) Boston Labor Conference (Boston, MA) - Request of \$200 to cover cost of rent and of sound equipment rental for "In Our Names, Against Our Interests, the AFL-CIO Abroad" on Dec. 6th.

Peace and Resistance Groups

- 4) . Women's Action on Tax Resistance (San Francisco, CA) - They're asking for \$600 for the production and printing of a brochure and other outreach materials.
- 5) Richmond Committee for World Peacemaking (Richmond, IN) - Request of \$600 towards the cost of purchase of a Canon copier
- 6) Center for Nonviolent Studies (Omaha, NE) - \$600 requested toward production and printing costs of their Midwest Resistance Newsletter
- 7) Birmingham WAND (Alabama) - Unspecified amount requested for costs of their "Peace Child" production.
- 8) Social Action Center (Albany, NY) - \$592 requested to purchase an AB Dick copier (a popular item this month).
- 9) Views in Print (Portland, OR) - Request of 400 for their media project on the Soviet Union.

Central America/Caribbean Solidarity Work

- 10) Western WA Sub-regional and Seattle CISPES - \$600 grant request for costs of office and of typewriter (also a request for \$800 loan for phone banking costs - see later under #25)
- 11) St. Louis Pledge of Resistance (MO) - \$600 requested for general funding of its project: the National Clearing House on the National Guard.
- 12) Marin Interfaith Task Force on Central America (Mill Valley, CA) - this was postponed from the Sept. meeting for several reasons: they hadn't answered my query letter, George V. had suggested it be postponed because of an unclear situation in El Salvador as far as the leadership of COMadres and the Human Rights Commission (needs clarification) and also because board members had questions on why should the Human Rights Comm. Office be set up in the U.S. and particularly in Mill Valley. Oh, by the way, that's what this group is requesting funds for. I sent them a long letter (again) on the above and hadn't received answers. Hopefully by Nov. 9th.
- 13) Center for Central American Studies (San Francisco, CA) - Unspecified amount requested for costs of a computer news service on Central America. Since there's not much info in their request, I sent them an application form but they haven't responded yet.
- 14) Comit  El Salvador (Medford, MA) - \$600 requested for production of a brochure. We considered this request at the June 22nd meeting but had some questions for them (needed a draft of copy of brochure and also had a political question we needed an answer to). I wrote them on June 26th but didn't receive a (partial) reply until recently so it's again on the agenda. I'll try to get some clarification on other info.
- 15) Bats Not Bombs (Los Angeles, CA) - Unspecified amount requested for computer expenses for their 1987 West Coast tour of Nicaraguan baseball teams.
- 16) New England Central America Network (Cambridge, MA) - Request of \$600 for expenses of their Rapid Response Network.

17) Washington Office on Haiti (D.C.) - \$556 requested for costs of production of their newsletter.

18) Friends of Elizam Escobar (Chicago, IL) - Unspecified amount requested for expenses of their tour of the art of this Puerto Rican political prisoners. This was postponed at the Sept. 22nd meeting. We needed more information from them as to how this was connected with organizing efforts and who did they expect to reach. We also needed more info about this from contacts.

Miscellaneous

19) Freedom for South Africa Refugee Campaign (San Francisco, CA) - \$500 requested for brochure for their organizing and for fundraising campaign.

20) Madison Institute for Social Legislation (WI) - Request of \$600 toward costs of city-wide ordinance to extend to alternative families the same rights and benefits as those of married people.

21) North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (Durham)- Request of \$500 to publish 1986 report on Klan/Nazi activity and bigoted violence.

22) Gray Panthers (Chicago, IL) - \$300 requested to cover costs of printing and mailing flyers for national health care project.

23) Freedom House (Richmond, VA) - \$525 asked for costs of newsletter, typewriter, slide show and flyers on homeless issue

24) Alliance for Cultural Democracy (Cambridge, MA) - \$600 requested toward costs of publicizing conference on cultural work: Nove. 7-10.

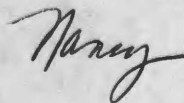
Loan Request

25) Western Washington Sub-regional CISPES (Seattle) - \$800 loan requested for phone banking expenses (see proposal #10)

That's it for now. I hope to see many of you at the Nov. 9th meeting in NY. If you can't make it, we'd like to hear from you and to hear the opinions on the requests from those that receive the full packets. I've again included a slip on the last page of the proxy sheet for those who are interested in attending the next meetings.

Keep in touch.

For peace and justice,



Nancy Moniz
Resist staff

A call to

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One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

November 13, 1986

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Grace Paley
Henry Rosemont
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
Rene Valle
George Vickers
Nancy Wechsler

Dan Hodges
Boston Labor Conference
c/o Central America Education Fund
1151 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dan,

The board of Resist met on November 9th to consider proposals for funding. It was decided not to fund your request. After reviewing your proposal and talking with Resist contacts in the labor and Central America movements; the board felt that, contrary to your statements, this was not a real coalition of groups but rather a project of the Central America Solidarity Association and its Labor Committee. The Resist board would rather consider another proposal from CASA directly. The board also felt that, although the conference might be interesting for already active progressives in the labor movement, our priority had to be on projects of education and organizing of the not-yet-convinced rank and file. The board felt that the theme of the conference was not the opening needed for that task.

We are looking forward to a proposal from CASA in the future and wish you well with the conference.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz
Nancy Moniz
Resist staff

December 24, 1986

Since there seems to be some confusion arising from our discussion at the November 9th board meeting pertaining to the yearly funding policy for groups such as CASA, I've taken it upon myself to go back through the Resist board meetings to find out just what policy decisions were made. The following list of decisions just goes back to the beginning of 1982. If people would like me to go back even further, I will.

In the noted decisions, sometimes I've synopsisized but, in some cases, those in quotes, the decisions are verbatim from the notes.

I hope this proves helpful in clarifying things now and in the future.

Nancy Mong